

NEWS RELEASE

**Milk Production
January 17, 2003**

NORTH DAKOTA OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

North Dakota

Milk production for the October-December quarter was estimated at 140 million pounds, down 14 million pounds from the same period last year, according to the USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Average milk cows during the quarter, at 38,000 head, decreased 6,000 head from the same period last year. Milk produced per cow during the October-December quarter was 3,680 pounds, up from 3,630 pounds a year earlier but down from 3,730 pounds during the July-September quarter.

United States

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.5 billion pounds, 1.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.15 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

MILK PRODUCTION OCTOBER - DECEMBER

State ^{1/}	Milk Cows ^{2/}		Milk Production ^{3/}		
	2001	2002	2001	2002	Change from 2001
	-- 1,000 Head --		-- Million Pounds -- (%)		
North Dakota	44	38	154	140	-9.1
California	1,614	1,670	8,343	8,676	4.0
Minnesota	500	480	2,111	2,023	-4.2
New York	674	675	2,932	2,958	.09
Wisconsin	1,280	1,267	5,377	5,390	0.2
United States	9,105	9,148	40,818	41,511	1.7

1/ Published are a few selected states from the National release. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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